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*Lena Cheung*

/ Lena Cheung

In the event that this paper is late filed and a necessary Petition for an Extension of Time is not concurrently filed herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this paper, to Deposit Account No. 50-1529.

Docket No. P-37/500622.20040

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Customer ID: 026418**

Applicants: William M. APPLING

Application No.: 10/728,267

Group No.: 1732

Filed: December 4, 2003

Examiner: N/A

For: VARIABLE CHARACTERISTIC VENOUS ACCESS CATHETER

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. Enclosed is Form PTO-1449 which lists the reference being cited together with a copy of the reference and the International Search Report for the corresponding PCT Application.

The reference may be deemed to be pertinent to the above-identified application and is being made of record to assist the Patent and Trademark Office in its examination of this application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to fully consider the item and to independently ascertain its teaching.

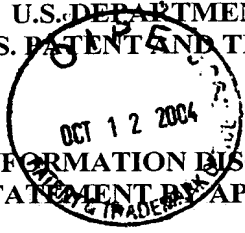
This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of a national application and NO FEE is believed to be due.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry K. Ahn", is written over a horizontal line.

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| <b>FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br/>(MODIFIED) U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</b><br><br><br><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br><br>(37 CFR 1.98(b)) | <b>ATTY. DOCKET NO.</b><br>P-37/500622.20040   | <b>APPLN. NO.</b><br>10/728,267 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>APPLICANT</b><br>William A. APPLING, et al. |                                 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>FILING DATE</b><br>December 4, 2003         | <b>GROUP</b><br>N/A             |

#### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initial | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Patent Number | Issue Date     | Patentee                     | Class/ Subclass | Filing Date |
|------------------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
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|                  |                       | 5,908,413     | June 1, 1999   | Michael R. Lange, et al.     | 604/529         |             |
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|                  |                       | 6,059,769     | May 9, 2000    | Peter Lunn, et al.           | 604/523         |             |
|                  |                       | 5,895,378     | April 20, 1999 | Alejandro Berenstein, et al. | 604/280         |             |

#### FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION

| Examiner Initial | Document Number | Publication Date | Country or Patent Office | Class/ Subclass | Translation Yes/No |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
|                  | WO 2004/050144  | June 17, 2004    | WO                       |                 | Yes                |
|                  |                 |                  |                          |                 |                    |
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#### OTHER DOCUMENTS

(Including Author, Title, Date, Relevant Pages, Place of Publication)

| Examiner Initial | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> |  |
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| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
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**EXAMINER:** Initial citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.